

NEWS RELEASE

USDA • Farm Service Agency • California • 430 G Street • Davis, CA 95616

AGRICULTURAL DISASTER DESIGNATIONS MADE FOR CALIFORNIA COUNTIES

Davis, Calif., May 12, 2003 - The U.S. Department of Agriculture has recently designated a number of counties in California as primary agricultural disaster areas.

Drought Designations:

The first five counties and their respective disaster dates are:

- Alpine and Lake Counties: March 15, 2002, through Dec. 31, 2002
- Amador County: Jan. 1, 2001, through Dec. 31, 2002
- Sacramento County: Jan. 1, 2002, through Dec. 20, 2002
- Yuba County: April 1, 2002, through Nov. 30, 2002.

These designations were made on April 28, 2003

The next six drought declared counties are:

- Alameda and Contra Costa: March 1, 2002, through Dec. 31, 2002
- El Dorado and Placer: Jan. 1, 2001, through Dec. 31, 2002
- Lake: March 15, 2002, through Dec. 31, 2002
- Sutter: Jan. 1, 2002, through Dec. 10, 2002

These designations were made on April 30 and May 1, 2003.

These 11 designation make all qualified farm operators eligible for low-interest emergency (EM) loans from the Farm Service Agency (FSA), provided eligibility requirements are met. Farmers in eligible counties have eight months from the date of the declaration to apply for the loans to help cover part of their actual losses. FSA will consider each loan application on its own merits, taking into account the extent of losses, security available and repayment ability. Livestock producers may also be eligible for the Livestock Compensation Program-2. This program is expected to end in early June and producers should file applications right away.

Designations for reasons other than Drought:

Tehama County has been designated as a primary disaster area for rain and high winds that occurred from Dec. 13, 2002 through Dec. 27, 2002, is. Eligible for the same adverse weather are the contiguous counties of Butte, Glenn, Mendocino, Plumas, Shasta and Trinity.

Sutter County, California, is designated as a primary disaster area for rain and high winds that occurred from Dec. 13, 2002, through Dec. 16, 2002. Also eligible because they are contiguous are the counties of Butte, Colusa, Placer, Sacramento, Yolo and Yuba.

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